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Office of the Vice President  
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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AT THE PITTSBURGH HILTON HOTEL  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

(AT 1:55 P.M. EDT)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, a pleasure. I am sorry to be late. But I got a little bit behind. I am delighted to be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I love Pennsylvania, right next to New York. We have had very close ties over the years.

This is a key State. This State and New York were pivotal States at the convention in terms of President Ford's nomination. I think they are going to be pivotal in his reelection.

I would like to say in my opinion, he is going to be elected on November 2, because when people get in that booth they are going to say to themselves when they are alone with this responsibility, "In whose hands do we want to place our trust for the next four years to meet the problems at home and abroad?"

I think they are going to say, on the basis of the record in the last two years, it is an extraordinary record of achievement of restoring the prestige and respect of the American people, in the Executive and the White House, stopping inflation or cutting it in half, getting the economy rolling with four million new jobs in the last 16 months, with the growth rate that is going to carry the unemployed back on to the rolls of private industry where there are good jobs for the future and the restoration of respect for America in the world, and peace for America.

Those are the factors which I think are going to be the key factors. I think they are going to determine the decision of the American people. So, I am optimistic. I am just delighted to be here.

I would just like to say that I think the head of the ticket in Pennsylvania, John Heinz is a man of outstanding ability. He has a proven record of independence, courage in the Congress. I think that he is going to lead the State ticket both for the nation in the consensus of the Senate and the Congress and the local ticket, here in Pennsylvania.

I would be glad to answer any questions.

QUESTION: Governor Rockefeller -- excuse me.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Governor is my security blanket. Thank you.

QUESTION: You are familiar with big city politics and what it can do. Do you think there is a recall that is going to have an effect on Ford's chances in Philadelphia?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I am familiar with big city politics. But I have long since recognized that when I was

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Governor of New York, I wasn't crazy about people coming from the outside and telling me about problems of New York. I am sure the people feel the same. Therefore, seeing this is a situation I really don't know intimately, I really would prefer not to comment on it, and just let developments take place. Whatever happens in the courts anyhow, time will tell whether the question you ask is going to be any factor.

QUESTION: Governor, you have repeatedly said that one of the things Ford has done is to restore respect and integrity in government.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right.

QUESTION: Do you feel that President Ford's apparent reluctance to discuss openly the g-o-l-f situation and Senator Scott's --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: What is g-o-l-f?

QUESTION: Getting free golf --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Oh, golf.

QUESTION: Golf, I am from Pittsburgh. I am sorry.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I am from a progressive school. I am not a very good speller. I didn't know whether you were talking about initials that I hadn't heard of before. Golf?

QUESTION: Golf, the game of golf situation and Scott's apparent reluctance to discuss with the public his involvement, or whatever it was in the Gulf Oil thing. Does that alter your feelings at all about this apparent resurgence of integrity in government?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think you have to take both those situations and take a look at them. In Senator Scott's case, there was nothing illegal about what he did. He is the leader of the party in the Senate and received funds that were given to him as contributions from private individuals.

He made those available to others. He let it go at that. The committee looked into it, the Ethics Committee in the Senate and found nothing and determined that the investigation should be concluded.

As far as golfing is concerned, you know, this country, we sort of live by tribal customs. For many, many years you played golf with your friends. You can call them mores if you want, or traditions. But you really didn't think too much about whether your friend was a newspaper reporter or whether he was an executive or whether he was a politician or whatnot. You just were with your friend.

Since Watergate that has taken on a whole new sort of sinister aspect. I think we are overreaching on it. If you get to a point where you can't associate with anybody except if they are in the same business you are in, whether it is politics or industry or something, I think we are getting to a point where really we are losing sight of integrity. Either someone has honesty and integrity inside and is not influenced by whom he has a ride in a car with, or who he has dinner or lunch with, or he may be dishonest or

she may be dishonest and see nobody and then still misrepresent the responsibilities of the office. It is symbolism and I don't think you can legislate morality.

The founding fathers were very sensitive, to me, on this subject. They recognized human weaknesses as well as human strengths. Therefore, they organized our government on a basis so that if a President went off and did something that was out of line, then the Congress and the courts were there to take the action necessary to protect the people.

This is what happened. I honestly think the best way to answer all these problems is to select decent, honest people to run for office and elect them. You just cannot legislate by these symbols of integrity because what you really could do is to say, make it so complicated that a lot of people think it is too complicated and then someone who is a real crook and is smart enough to get around all of this, gets in and then you are in worse trouble. Excuse me for a long answer.

QUESTION: You seem to be genuinely enjoying being on the campaign trail.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You got it.

QUESTION: Do you have any regrets it is not you running for the Vice Presidency this year?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, none at all. I took the Vice Presidency and was very honored by President Ford's asking me because we were in a constitutional crisis. I thought if I could lend even a small amount of stability and sense of confidence at a critical moment, a constitutional crisis in our country, I would do it.

But I am not one for standby equipment. Let's face it. That is the role of a Vice President. I have turned it down on previous occasions, although I was honored, because I am an activist. That is not the spot for an activist.

QUESTION: What is your next spot?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The next spot is to get back and catch up with Happy and the two little boys and my own family affairs. Then having an interest in people and an interest in problem-solving, maybe I could get interested in politics in one form or another. There are lots of ways you could serve your country.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, have you had counsel with Senator Dole on what he could expect of the job?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

QUESTION: What have you told him?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Just what I have told you. But Senator Dole is an unusual man. He has been a local prosecutor in the county. He has been a State legislator. He has been a member of the House of Representatives. He has been in the Senate. He still is in the Senate. He was a war hero. He is a man of great compassion, a strong advocate of civil rights, a strong advocate of the defense of the integrity of Israel, a man who is deeply concerned

about the physically handicapped. He lost the use of one arm himself. He was on the McGovern-Dole bill to provide food stamps for those in need and not for those who weren't.

Here is an unusual man who is a great speaker. He is coming here next week, is it -- Tuesday. He is a man with a great sense of humor. He has always been on the legislative side. I have always been on the executive. It is a little different.

I think he will have a very interesting period. He is qualified, should anything -- God forbid -- happen to the President, to take the Presidency. But he can have a very interesting period, first in getting updated on all of the international problems which you do in that spot, and the national decisions.

Then I think he will enjoy communicating with the American people which he is awfully good at. He has a great sense of humor. He is a great speaker. I think he will enjoy moving around the country and communicating. Communication is an important part of politics.

QUESTION: Is it a job where you can actually see yourself accomplishing something? It seems sometimes to be thankless.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Really, if we are totally simple about it, it is really standby equipment, which is what I called it in 1960. You are there just like you have a standby generator in the hotel, maybe here, in case the circuit goes out. You can activate the generator to take over and keep the lights on. That is really what the job is for.

I studied this for President Eisenhower once when I was Chairman of his Committee on Government Organization. He asked me to study what he could give Vice President Nixon to do. So, we studied it for about three months and came back with the conclusion that under the Constitution the only function was presiding over the Senate, which is a great honor.

Beyond that he had no function. All the power went to the President. The only way the President could give him a job was to delegate some of his part to the Vice President. If he delegated too much, he then could create a competitive center in the Executive Branch of government, or in the government, a political center where you could start to get a conflict of loyalties and it could be a confusing situation.

We recommended he do nothing. I was well-prepared for taking this job.

QUESTION: To go on to a different area, Secretary of State Kissinger seems to be having tremendous success in South Africa, which once again points up the importance of the position of the Secretary of State. Perhaps this is a loaded question but there are a lot of rumors floating around that if the President is to be elected he will send the name of William Scranton to the Senate to replace Dr. Kissinger. Are you aware of that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The President has a tremendously high regard for Bill Scranton. That I know. Bill

has been one of his advisors and counselors. He is an outstanding person. The President has always said that as long as he is in office he would like to have Secretary Kissinger stay there. I happen to feel that he is one of the most brilliant, if not the most brilliant Secretary of State this country has ever had.

His extraordinary capacity to negotiate the most delicate decisions, and this one in Rhodesia that he has just come back from is perhaps one of his greatest triumphs. So, if for some reason he didn't stay, I am sure that Bill Scranton would be high on any list the President would have.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, earlier today you said that the Presidential race was close in spite of mistakes attributed to the Carter campaign of late. When you said that were you taking into consideration the McCarthy campaign?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir. I think that is a very real factor. The polls indicate four, five, six percent could go to McCarthy and that most of those come from the Democratic camp on the progressive wing that would otherwise go to the Governor. I think that is a real factor.

QUESTION: Are you saying that the McCarthy campaign could hurt Governor Carter's chances that much more in the event of a close final vote count?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They would be more decisive in the event of a close count. They will have the same effect regardless of what it is, but it could be decisive would be my guess.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, at the airport I heard you say this is not the time for on-the-job training, meaning Jimmy Carter. Exactly what did you mean by that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I meant the problems facing this nation at home and abroad in a period of accelerating change the likes of which we have never seen before, of accelerating technology which is revolutionizing many aspects of life. Plus the growing interdependence among nations is such that for someone who has had almost no experience in this field either domestically on the national scene or internationally on the international scene, and who in his discussions has taken some pretty widely varying stands on single issues such as the Humphrey-Hawkins bill which he was warmly and openly supporting in the beginning, and then he has now said he is going to have a balanced budget by 1980 and he might have to postpone those new programs.

These are indications, to me, of a certain uncertainty in his own thinking which I can understand because these are all areas which he has not had to deal with on a national basis or an international basis before. Therefore, it is hard to know just exactly what his position would be were he the President. I think this is going to be increasingly a matter of concern to voters.

QUESTION: Senator Mondale indicated this morning that the decline of the economic indicators in August shows that the Ford economic policies have not been that strong, as strong as the Ford-Dole ticket has indicated. How do you feel about that? They apparently do indicate some problems this winter, at least.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I just made a speech at lunch using about five or six of those indicators, all of which are up. The major problem has been in an increase in the number of so-called "unemployed." The interesting fact is that employment has been going up and so has unemployment. That is a statistical question.

What happened is a month ago there were 400,000 new jobs that month but during that same month, 700,000 people registered for jobs which to me is evidence of the growing confidence in our economy. Most of them were women, which is also an interesting factor. Forty-five percent of the work force today in the United States is comprised of women.

So, we have a changing economy, a changing society, changing mores and I think that if one takes the statistics without examining them, one could try and come to a conclusion such that Mr. Mondale made.

On the other hand, my own feeling is that we are seeing an extraordinary phenomenon in the past two years of where the President has been able to control inflation and reactivate the economy in terms of employment, both at the same time which the economists thought was impossible, that you couldn't do both at the same time.

No western industrial nation except Germany has had a better record than the United States. I think we are going to see a continuing upsurge and that we are going to see employment in private industry pick up. The real danger is of not controlling government spending and the forces of inflation so that we get the most dangerous, to me, result which is inflation which erodes the earnings and savings and buying power of those in fixed incomes and those least able to pay.

I really think that while there has been a moment of hesitation here we were really going too fast. We are up to an 8.6 percent growth rate. I don't think that one could have sustained that in this country without getting back into inflationary pressures from the actual rate of growth of the economy. I think there should be a healthy pause, and then go on up.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, there has been a lot of talk, as a practical politician, about the televised debates and what effect they are going to have. Do you think they are that substantial as far as the election itself is concerned? Do you think they really mean that much?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Television is a very powerful medium. In the old days you could go on the village green and talk to the community from there. Now, the only way is through television in terms of their being about to see you personally and look at you, watch you make your judgements, your expressions in the way you answer a question, how you look, whether your eyes smile or just your mouth; all of those things people are interested in. They read from those, and very rightly.

QUESTION: Perhaps I should have asked, is there too much emphasis put on those televised debates?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think there is. I think it is a good thing. I don't think it is really a

debate myself. But I think it is a good thing. It is just like being able to see somebody, you can judge them better. That makes me think that before I go I would like you to see so you can judge better, the next Senator from Pennsylvania's wife, Mrs. Heinz, if she would come over here and you can see. If you hadn't seen her you wouldn't be able to get a feeling of her importance in this campaign for her husband. I want to tell you, we need this kind of young, bright, independent, attractive leadership at the head of the ticket. The mike is yours, Mrs. Heinz.

MRS. HEINZ: I am awfully sorry my John isn't here with the Vice President. We have been together for a day and a half. Would you believe it, about two hours ago John out of a press conference was called to Washington for a vote. I am a skirt at best, but here I am. I am not obviously going to answer any questions. I am sorry he wasn't here.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I would just like to say that is a very modest statement, this reference to a skirt. This has to be a brilliant, very able, extremely perceptive woman who is a tremendous asset to her husband, and to the political process. I would just like to thank you very much.

One more question.

QUESTION: Both you and President Ford have explained that one of the reasons the President pardoned Richard Nixon was to get Watergate behind us. It seems that every so often now Nixon himself is surfacing to bring it back. Most recently we have front page stories about his memoirs which say Watergate was an injustice to him and he was brought to his knees by his enemies. What kind of thing does this kind of resurfacing of Watergate do to the Ford campaign in light of the unpopularity of the pardon?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I am not so sure I agree with your basic premise. I don't think the pardon is that unpopular. I think many Americans, a very substantial number were becoming aware of the fact that we had a tremendous number of urgent problems ahead of us that had to be dealt with and that we couldn't keep on reliving the past and being lost in recriminations and preoccupations with what had happened.

This man had to leave the Presidency, let's face it, in disgrace because of what happened. I don't know anything about his memoirs. I hadn't heard they were out, or is this just a preview in some magazine?

QUESTION: In the New York Times and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It wasn't in Playboy.

(Laughter.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You never know who is going to publish these things. I would have to say that it is hard to expect Mr. Nixon to say anything else about what happened. It is a pretty tough thing to swallow. On his behalf, he did some very brilliant things for this country in the international field, and was reelected by a tremendously overwhelming majority, and then he blew it.

I don't know. Maybe he will explain it in his book. But it is hard to understand how that happened and a tragedy,

let's put it that way. But the exciting thing is that this constitutional government of ours and the American people operating under a constitutional system weathered this as perhaps no other nation could have weathered it. The American people stayed calm, and the Congress of the United States in those investigations was superb. I think we have shown the system works.

I am delighted to be here. I thank all of you very much.

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(AT 2:30 P.M. EDT)